

(2) *either:*

(A) *fails to remove the address or telephone number from the publicly accessible website within a period of 48 hours after receiving the demand; or*

(B) *reposts the address or telephone number on the same or a different publicly accessible website, or makes the information publicly available through another medium, within a period of four years after receiving the demand, regardless of whether the individual is no longer a public servant.*

SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on May 6, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2015: Yeas 142, Nays 3, two present not voting.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

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**AUTHORITY OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
TEXAS TO RETAIN ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL  
PROCEEDINGS AFFECTING CERTAIN ELECTRIC UTILITIES  
AND CONSUMERS**

**CHAPTER 849**

S.B. No. 932

**AN ACT**

**relating to the authority of the Public Utility Commission of Texas to retain assistance for federal proceedings affecting certain electric utilities and consumers.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 39.408 to read as follows:

**Sec. 39.408. HIRING ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS.** (a) *The commission may retain any consultant, accountant, auditor, engineer, or attorney the commission considers necessary to represent the commission in a proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or before a court reviewing proceedings of that federal commission, related to:*

*(1) the relationship of an electric utility subject to this subchapter to a power region, regional transmission organization, or independent system operator;*

*(2) the approval of an agreement among the electric utility and the electric utility's affiliates concerning the coordination of the operations of the electric utility and the electric utility's affiliates; or*

*(3) other matters related to the electric utility subject to this subchapter that may affect the ultimate rates paid by retail customers in this state.*

(b) Assistance for which a consultant, accountant, auditor, engineer, or attorney may be retained under Subsection (a) may include:

*(1) conducting a study;*

*(2) conducting an investigation;*

- (3) *presenting evidence;*
- (4) *advising the commission; or*
- (5) *representing the commission.*

(c) *The electric utility shall pay timely the reasonable costs of the services of a person retained under Subsection (a), as determined by the commission. The total costs an electric utility is required to pay under this subsection may not exceed \$1.5 million in a 12-month period.*

(d) *The commission shall allow the electric utility to recover both the total costs the electric utility paid under Subsection (c) and the carrying charges for those costs through a rider established annually to recover the costs paid and carrying charges incurred during the preceding calendar year. The rider may not be implemented before the rider is reviewed and approved by the commission.*

(e) *The commission shall consult the attorney general before the commission retains a consultant, accountant, auditor, or engineer under Subsection (a). The retention of an attorney under Subsection (a) is subject to the approval of the attorney general under Section 402.0212, Government Code.*

(f) *The commission shall be precluded from engaging any individual who is required to register under Section 305.003, Government Code.*

(g) *This section expires September 1, 2023.*

SECTION 2. Section 39.4525, Utilities Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (g) to read as follows:

(a) The commission may retain any consultant, accountant, auditor, engineer, or attorney the commission considers necessary to represent the commission in a proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or before a court reviewing proceedings of that federal commission, related to:

(1) the relationship of an electric utility subject to this subchapter to a power region, regional transmission organization, or independent system operator; ~~or~~

(2) the approval of an agreement among the electric utility and the electric utility's affiliates concerning the coordination of the operations of the electric utility and the electric utility's affiliates; or

(3) *other matters related to the electric utility subject to this subchapter that may affect the ultimate rates paid by retail customers in this state.*

(g) This section expires *September 1, 2023* ~~December 31, 2017~~.

SECTION 3. Subchapter K, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 39.504 to read as follows:

*Sec. 39.504. HIRING ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS. (a) The commission may retain any consultant, accountant, auditor, engineer, or attorney the commission considers necessary to represent the commission in a proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or before a court reviewing proceedings of that federal commission, related to:*

*(1) the relationship of an electric utility subject to this subchapter to a power region, regional transmission organization, or independent system operator;*

*(2) the approval of an agreement among the electric utility and the electric utility's affiliates concerning the coordination of the operations of the electric utility and the electric utility's affiliates; or*

*(3) other matters related to the electric utility subject to this subchapter that may affect the ultimate rates paid by retail customers in this state.*

*(b) Assistance for which a consultant, accountant, auditor, engineer, or attorney may be retained under Subsection (a) may include:*

- (1) conducting a study;*
- (2) conducting an investigation;*

- (3) *presenting evidence;*
- (4) *advising the commission; or*
- (5) *representing the commission.*

(c) *The electric utility shall pay timely the reasonable costs of the services of a person retained under Subsection (a), as determined by the commission. The total costs an electric utility is required to pay under this subsection may not exceed \$1.5 million in a 12-month period.*

(d) *The commission shall allow the electric utility to recover both the total costs the electric utility paid under Subsection (c) and the carrying charges for those costs through a rider established annually to recover the costs paid and carrying charges incurred during the preceding calendar year. The rider may not be implemented before the rider is reviewed and approved by the commission.*

(e) *The commission shall consult the attorney general before the commission retains a consultant, accountant, auditor, or engineer under Subsection (a). The retention of an attorney under Subsection (a) is subject to the approval of the attorney general under Section 402.0212, Government Code.*

(f) *The commission shall be precluded from engaging any individual who is required to register under Section 305.003, Government Code.*

(g) *This section expires September 1, 2023.*

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on April 9, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2015: Yeas 142, Nays 3, two present not voting.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

## SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION PAID TO CERTAIN COUNTY JUDGES

### CHAPTER 850

S.B. No. 1025

#### AN ACT

**relating to supplemental compensation paid to certain county judges.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 26.006(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A county judge is entitled to an annual salary supplement from the state *in an amount equal to 18 percent of the annual compensation provided for a district judge in the General Appropriations Act* ~~[of \$15,000]~~ if at least 40 percent of the functions that the judge performs are judicial functions.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on May 19, 2015: Yeas 27, Nays 4; passed the House on May 26, 2015: Yeas 122, Nays 24, two present not voting.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective June 17, 2015.